

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 081649Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2015

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: AFM PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING

REFS: (A) LISBON 1916 AND PREVIOUS; (B) LISBON 1952;

(C) LISBON 1984

SUMMARY: CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE, THE MODERATE POLITICAL PARTIES MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO AGREE TO AFM PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING, MANY OF WHOSE POINTS THEY DISAGREE WITH BUT BELIEVE THEY CANNOT CHANGE. SEVEN OF THE 12 LEGALIZED PARTIES WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A FINAL DOCUMENT TODAY, WITH SIGNING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, ON APRIL 2 THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT  
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PRESENTED ELEVEN OF THE TWELVE LEGALIZED POLITICAL PARTIES

WITH A DRAFT "PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING" FOR THEIR PERUSAL AND ACCEPTANCE. (REF B PROVIDED SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DRAFT). THE PARTIES SUBMITTED WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT AS REQUESTED ON APRIL 4.

2. CDS AND PPD LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WERE ASKED TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH FOUR AFM LEADERS ON APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF THEIR WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE PLATFORM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOCIALISTS ALSO MET THAT SAME DAY WITH THE AFM REPRESENTATIVES. THE CDS CLAIM THAT THE FOUR AFM REPRESENTATIVES (ROSA COUTINHO, VASCO LOURENCO, PEREIRA PINTO AND CHARAIS) WERE FRIENDLY AND WERE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THE CDS POINT OF VIEW, AND THAT THEY AGREED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT. THE CDS IS NOT SANGUINE, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR GETTING ANY OF ITS MAJOR SUGGESTED CHANGES ACCEPTED. THE CDS IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE DRAFT AS A WHOLE, AND PARTICULARLY DISAGREED WITH METHOD OF PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION AND THE SCOPE AND POWERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THE PARTY IS AWAITING THE FINAL TEXT OF THE DRAFT BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO SIGN. THEY POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THEY FIND THEMSELVES BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE. BY SIGNING THE PLATFORM THEY STAY WITHIN THE AFM FOLD, BUT AGREE TO SOMETHING IN WHICH THEY DO NOT BELIEVE. THE ONLY BENEFIT IS THAT THEY ARE NOT FURTHER OSTRACIZED, AND PERHAPS ALONG WITH OTHER MODERATES COULD INTERPRET THE PLATFORM TERMS IN A MORE FAVORABLE MANNER IN THE WORK OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. THEY REALIZE THOUGH THAT MODERATE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE LITTLE LEVERAGE OR MANEUVERING ROOM IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE AFM. FAILURE TO SIGN THE PLATFORM WOULD NOT MATERIALLY AFFECT THE PACE OF THE REVOLUTION AND WOULD ONLY CAST THEM FURTHER OUTSIDE THE PALE.

3. THE PPD REPORTS A SIMILAR RESPONSE FROM THE AFM REPRESENTATIVES TO THEIR COUNTER-PROPOSALS. THEY TOO CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING WITH A FEELING THAT SOME CHANGES HAD BEEN AFFECTED, BUT SAY THAT IN THE END THE MILITARY DICTATES. FAILURE TO AGREE TO "THE BLACKMAIL" WILL PLACE THEM IN JUST THE POSITION THEIR OPPONENTS WOULD LIKE THEM IN -- OUTCASTS, OVERT OPPONENTS OF THE REVOLUTION.

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4. SOCIALISTS HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT PLATFORM, DESPITE RESERVATIONS. THEY ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS EITHER, BUT THINK ELECTIONS IMPORTANT IN HALTING FURTHER SLIDE TO LEFT.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM AN ESPRESSO SOURCE THAT THE MONARCHISTS, SOCIALISTS, PPD AND CDS INFORMALLY AND QUIETLY COORDINATED THEIR RESPONSES TO THE AFM PLATFORM ON APRIL 3 AND 4.

6. AS REPORTED, FOUR FAR LEFTIST PARTIES EARLIER REFUSED TO SIGN THE PLATFORM (REF C). THE CDS TOLD US THAT, MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF THE AFM, THE LEFT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MES) SUBMITTED (IN THE WORDS OF VASCO LOURENCO) A "NON-CONSTRUCTIVE" WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE AFM PLATFORM. THE AFM, CONSIDERING THE MES REPLY A REFUSAL TO COOPERATE, DID NOT INVITE ITS REPRESENTATIVES FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH THE AFM.

7. THE AFM ASSEMBLY MET APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PARTY RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT PLATFORM. EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT A NEW FINAL VERSION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PARTIES ON APRIL 8 FOR SIGNING IN A FORMAL CEREMONY FRIDAY, APRIL 11. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PARTIES WILL SIGN THE PLATFORM: PCP, MDP, FSP, PS, PPD, PPM, AND CDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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